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LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning ongoing violence in Kosovo issued on 4 November 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning ongoing violence in Kosovo, issued on 4 November 1999, by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union has learned with dismay of the recent acts of violence against the Serb population of Kosovo. The European Union condemns, in particular, the incident on 27 October, in Pec, where a convoy of 155 Serbs, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and under KFOR protection, was attacked and several people were injured, and the shooting against the President of the "Kosovo Serbian Resistance Movement" and co-chairman of the Serbian National Council, Mr. Momcilo Trajkovic, on 31 October, in his home in Pristina, as well as the many other attacks against minorities and recent acts of violence. The shooting in Pristina is likely to further complicate efforts to bring about political dialogue between Serb and Albanian political leaders in Kosovo.

The European Union expects full compliance from all parties with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and full cooperation with the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo and KFOR, the international presence established by that resolution. All violence from any side must come to an end.

The European Union is committed to a democratic and multiethnic Kosovo. All Kosovars - irrespective of their ethnic origin - must be able to stay in and to return to Kosovo, and live there in peace without harassment or intimidation of any kind. This was, is and will be the basis for the European Union's strong commitment (military, political, economic) in Kosovo.

The European Union and its member States are making a substantial investment in terms of people and money in the reconstruction of Kosovo. Continuing ethnic violence can only complicate the European Union's efforts to help rebuild a stable society in Kosovo. The European Union appeals to all the people of Kosovo to refrain from violence and embrace the path of cooperation. The Union appeals in particular to the leaders of the Kosovo Albanian community to condemn these acts of violence and to use their influence and leadership to work with KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo to stamp out incidents of violence and intimidation in Kosovo. The Union urges all parties concerned to cooperate to quickly bring the perpetrators to justice, and calls on all political forces in Kosovo to re-establish dialogue and stop threatening political opponents.